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Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

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Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)

CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS SUBMITTED BY STATES PARTIES UNDER ARTICLE 18 OF THE CONVENTION

Second Periodic Reports of States parties

GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

V.88-30167

Since 1985, when the German Democratic Republic submitted its above-mentioned report, our country has recorded significant advances in terms of social development and in further promoting women's career and social opportunities--facts that should be heeded by the CEDAW when considering the above-mentioned report. This is evidenced, in particular, by new measures designed to better reconcile employment and motherhood as set out in Annex 2. They reflect the responsibility of society as a whole for ensuring equality between the genders, while seeking to make it possible for women to unfold their full potentialities.

National statistics of 1987 showed more than 91 per cent of the women of working age employed, studying or receiving vocational training, and women accounting for 49 per cent of all persons in gainful employment. The differentials in qualification levels of women compared to those of men have noticeably diminished. In 1987, 86.3 per cent of the women employed possessed a skilled-worker's certificate or an academic qualification. The remaining differentials consist, above all, in lacking qualifications of women of 45 or older.

Since the late 1970s all parents who wish to do so have been able to send their children from the age of three up to school entry age to a kindergarten free of charge. After-school centres are open to all children attending grades 1 to 4, with no payment required, while creches look after eighty per cent of children below the age of three.

The GDR's policy principle of translating economic achievements into social benefits remains the fundamental prerequisite for enhancing the status of women in society. The annually growing efficiency of the country's economy has served to keep material and cultural living standards stable and to raise them in accordance with national plans. The produced national income rose from 121.6 billion marks in 1970 to more than 261 billion marks in 1987 (by 115 per cent). Within the same period, industrial gross production increased by 128 per cent.

In agriculture, the year of 1987 as against 1980 saw important rises in production, too, despite reductions in the country's farmland and agricultural workforce.

An important factor of social development, in particular in respect of families, is the provision of adequate housing, the objective being in the German Democratic Republic to solve the housing problem as a question of social relevance by 1990. The housing construction programme is the centrepiece of the social welfare policy pursued by the Government of the GDR. The results achieved by now are impressive. Compared with 1970, the output of the national construction sector increased by 83 per cent, absorbing 10 per cent of the national income produced in that period. By 1987 living conditions had improved for 8.5 million inhabitants. Two thirds of all newly built flats were given to working-class families, with special attention being paid to families with three or more children. Halfway through 1987, there were 427 flats to 1,000 inhabitants. The average living space per person is 27 square metres. Rents are low, amounting to an average three per cent of family budgets.

The Government of the German Democratic Republic takes the liberty to provide some statistics on the level obtained in its country's social development in 1986-1987, reflecting in particular improvements in the situation of women in society, as well as to transmit a number of legal regulations for the promotion of women enacted since 1982.

Annex 1

1. Percentage of women deputies after the elections of

	1979	1981	1984	1986
People's Chamber		32.4		32.2
County assemblies		38.7		40.6
District assemblies (Urban and rural district assemblies)	41.7		42.6	
Borough assemblies in urban districts	40.7		41.2	
Village assemblies	34.8		36.8	

Women mayors in towns and villages

1979	25.2 per cent
1987	31.2 per cent

On 1. Percentage of women members in the Standing Commissions of the local popular assemblies after the elections of:

	1984	1986
County assemblies		37.1
District assemblies (Rural district Assemblies)	40.8	
Town councils (Urban districts)	49.1	
Town councils or village councils (Towns or rural communities)	39.3	
Borough assemblies	43.2	
Total		39.5

2. Percentage of women members of the political parties of the GDR

	1980	1986
Socialist Unity Party of Germany (SED)	33.5	35.9
Democratic Farmers' Party of Germany (DBD)	29.3	33.1
Christian Democratic Union of Germany (CDU)	43.4	44.7
Liberal Democratic Party of Germany (LDPD)	30.5	34.2
National Democratic Party of Germany (NDPD)	31.2	35.8

Number and percentage of women in selected mass organizations of the GDR

		1980		1987	
		Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
Confederation of Free German Trade Unions (FDGB)	millions	4.5	51	5.1	53.1
Women's Democratic League of Germany	millions	1.4	100	1.5	100
Sports and Gymnastics Union of the GDR	millions	0.8	27	1.1	29.3
Mutual Farmers Aid Association	millions	0.02	18	0.2	34.3
Chamber of Technology	millions	0.4	15	0.45	15.6

On 2. Percentage of women members and offices held by women in the Confederation of Free German Trade Unions

	1980	1982	1986/87
Total female membership	50.9		53.1
Proportion of offices held by women in total	50.0		52.9
out of that			
Group representatives	47.8		50.1
Chairwomen of enterprise trade union committees	46.1		53.5
Chairwomen of district executives	11.1		17.3
Chairwomen of county executives	6.7		6.7
Chairwomen of industrial unions/ other unions		25.0	31.2
Members and candidate members of the national executive		50.8	50.0
Members of the presidium of the national executive		25	33

3. Administration of justice

Percentage of women in elected judges after the elections of:

	1979	1981	1984	1986
County courts		41.9		46.2
District courts	48.9		55.1	

Percentage of women in lay judges

	1980	1987
County courts	47.2	52.9
District courts	51.0	52.9

Percentage of women members in elected arbitration commissions

	1980	1987
Women members	44.4	47.3

4. Percentage of female students and graduates at universities and institutions of higher learning according to major subjects (excluding research and foreign students)

Year	Total	Major subjects										
		Mathem. Natural Sciences	Techn. Sciences	Medicine	Agrar. Sciences	Econ. Sciences	Philos.-Histor. Sciences, Pol. Science and Law	Culture, the Arts and Sports	Theology	Literature, Languages	Arts	Teachers of all subjects
					Students							
1980	48.7	49.3	26.9	56.3	48.8	59.8	34.1	35.4	44.3	71.6	41.0	74.4
1987	50.2	50.8	27.5	56.6	47.2	67.7	35.6	38.8	48.6	60.5	44.2	73.0
					Graduates							
1980	47.6	37.0	25.7	61.9	42.3	50.7	33.8	33.7	51.9	71.1	31.5	72.2
1987	50.6	57.4	28.7	52.3	49.9	69.6	35.5	36.0	43.1	71.6	44.7	75.7

Percentage of female students and graduates at technical schools (excluding foreign students)

Year	Total	Techn. Sciences	Médicine/ health	Agrar. Sciences	Econ. Sciences	Polit. Science Social Sciences Documentation and Library	Culture and Sports	Literature, Languages	Arts	Teachers of all subjects
					Students					
1980	71.9	32.8	97.7	47.7	83.9	83.5	49.5	90.2	63.7	83.1
1987	70.6	29.0	95.9	48.0	85.8	78.8	50.0	-	63.2	87.7
					Graduates					
1980	74.1	34.0	97.8	42.1	82.3	78.8	58.1	92.6	65.9	89.0
1987	76.7	36.1	96.8	55.2	86.8	78.3	50.0	88.9	60.0	90.3

Educational level of persons gainfully employed in socialist economy (in 1000)

Year	Gainfully employed persons with completed vocational training				
	Total	Completed university studies	Completed technical school studies	Foreman	Skilled worker
1980	6,283.3	500.7	911.5	278.2	4,327.5
female	2,898.2	175.4	524.2	29.7	2,040.0
1987	7,030.4	612.7	1,080.5	315.6	4,763.4
female	3,318.8	238.8	681.8	41.9	2,244.8

5. National economy

Percentage of gainfully employed women according to occupation groups and economic sectors

Year	Total	Economic sectors							
		Industry	Crafts excluding building crafts	Building industry	Agriculture and forestry	Transport, post and telecomm.	Trade	Other productive branches	Non-productive branches
Gainfully employed women (excluding apprentices)									
1980	49.9	43.3	38.0	16.2	41.5	36.9	72.8	55.1	72.9
1987	49.0	41.2	36.6	16.9	38.1	35.3	72.2	55.7	72.7
Workers and office employees (excluding apprentices)									
1980	51.1	43.3	44.0	16.8	40.0	37.1	73.6	55.0	73.1
1987	50.4	41.2	40.2	17.4	37.9	35.4	73.0	55.6	72.8
Members of production cooperatives									
1980	41.1	27.6	33.4	10.6	42.2	-	-	80.9	84.3
1987	38.4	28.3	32.9	11.4	38.1	-	-	75.5	86.9
Independent tradesmen and co-working family members									
1980	39.3	49.6	34.0	17.5	47.5	23.6	56.4	61.2	46.1
1987	39.6	50.6	35.0	19.3	46.7	24.6	55.6	65.5	45.4
Female apprentices									
1980	43.1	41.7	20.7	11.0	47.1	28.4	84.4	75.2	76.7
1987	42.0	39.7	20.5	10.2	38.7	29.9	83.1	72.8	74.4

On 5.:

Educational and qualification levels have been increasing steadily. Currently, 86.3 per cent of all gainfully employed women hold skilled-worker's certificates and women account for 54.4 per cent of all university and technical school graduates working in the economic sector. The latter are highly-qualified women, the majority of them being capable of performing leading functions in national economic sectors. At the present time, women hold more than 30 per cent of these leading functions.
In sectors where women have traditionally made up the majority of the workforce, some 50 per cent of management posts are held by women.
The same trend is perceptible in scientific areas. Women account for 43.0 per cent of qualified scientific personnel. The development of women's scientific potentials in terms of quality and quantity is, among other things, evidenced by the fact that nearly 32 per cent of all doctoral theses (A) are written by women.

Just like in the economic sphere, women's involvement in public affairs has been constantly growing.

Currently, government and economic management bodies are making efforts to assign even more women to responsible functions in the economic sector, in government institutions and in other fields with a view to better utilizing the potential of highly-educated and professionally experienced women and to bringing to bear more effectively their abilities and talents.

6. Agriculture

Educational level of persons permanently employed in socialist agriculture

Year	Persons permanently employed					
	Total	with completed training				Percentage of persons with completed training
		Completed university studies	Completed technical school studies	Foreman	Skilled worker	
1980	780,204	16,363	45,473	51,937	580,855	91.1
female	333,544	3,526	13,873	7,776	263,722	88.6
1987	826,367	22,186	53,837	55,180	620,577	94.2
female	334,304	6,268	20,856	9,285	254,591	92.1

The number of chairmen of Agricultural Production Cooperatives and State Farms, respectively, rose from 115 in 1980 to 130 in 1987. 22.5 per cent of the members of executives of Agricultural Production Cooperatives and of the managements of State Farms, respectively, are women. Almost two thirds of the chief accountants are women.

7. Public health system

Persons employed in institutions of public health and social services

	Persons employed			
	Total		Women	
	(in 1000)			
	1985	1987	1985	1987
Public health	398.7	405.9	333.7	338.1
Social services	144.3	150.8	134.1	139.0
Total	543.0	556.7	467.3	477.1

There are female assistant medical directors, female head physicians, 53 female district health officers and one female county health officer. Every second director of a medical college is a women. Thousands of ward physicians, directors of division and other senior personnel working in public health and social welfare institutions are women.

Development of infant and maternal mortality

	1980	1987
infant mortality per 1,000 live births	12.1	8.7
maternal mortality per 10,000 live births	1.8	1.3

Development of life expectancy in years

	1980	1987
new-born males	68.7	69.8
new-born females	74.6	75.9

Paid release from work following maternity leave

Number of children	Years in which new regulations took effect		
	1976	1984	1986
	age of infants in ... months		
1st child	12[1)]	12[1)]	12
2nd child	12	12	12
3rd child and more	12	18	18

1) unpaid

8. Child-care facilities

Crèches

Year	Number of facilities	Number of places	Places per 1,000 children under 3 years of age
1980	6,415	284,712	612
1987	7,559	348,422	806

Kindergartens

Year	Number of facilities	Number of places
1980	12,145	710,351
1987	13,330	884,620

All children of the respective age group may, if their parents wish, be looked after in kidergartens.

After-school centres

Year	Number of groups in after-school centres	Number of places
1980	31,555	745,548
1987	35,623	804,740

All pupils of grades 1 to 4 may, if their parents wish, attend after-school centres.

9. Care for mother and child

Recreation homes for expectant mothers, beds in obstetrical hospital wards and beds for newly-borns

Year	Recreation homes for expectant mothers		Beds in obstetrical hospital wards	Beds for newly-borns
	facilities	beds	in hospitals	
1980	14	589	7,505	6,436
1987	13	566	8,028	6,759

Consulting centres for pregnant women and maternal advisory centres

Year	Consulting centres for pregnant women	Maternal advisory centres	Babies cared for
1980	891	9,834	234,713
1987	858	9,074	217,203

Monetary benefits from the social insurance scheme of the workers and employees in case of maternity

Year	Pregnancy and maternity benefit	Monetary allowance at childbirth	Support for nursing sick children	Support for mothers who have to interrupt employment until a crèche place can be made available	Support for mothers after maternity leave	State children's allowances
	in million marks					
1980	690.5	228.6	71.1	56.7	261.0	2.4
1987	790.3	208.1	392.5	53.2	710.5	0.4

Granting of credits at favourable terms to young married couples

	Year when new regulations took effect		
	1972	1981	1986
age limit[1)]	26 years	26 years	30 years
income limit[2)]	1,400 marks	-	-
amount of interest-free credit per credit	5,000 marks	5,000 marks	7,000 marks
running period	8 years	8 years	11 years

1) for both man and wife at the time of marriage

2) joint monthly gross income

At the birth of children the credit amount to be repaid is reduced

at the birth of the first child	by 1,000 marks
at the birth of the second child	by 1,500 marks
at the birth of the third child	by 2,500 marks

Development of government children's allowances

number of children	Year when regulations took effect		
	1969	1981	1987
		marks	
1st child	20	20	50
2nd child	20	20	100
3rd child	50	100	150
4th child	60	100	150
5th child and more	70	100	150

Marriages and Divorces

	number of marriages	number of divorces	marriages per 1,000	divorces inhabitants
	in 1000			
1980	134.2	44.8	8.0	2.7
1987	141.3	50.6	8.5	3.8

The German Democratic Republic is a socialist State where the rule of law is assured and citizens enjoy fundamental human rights.

According to a study of December 1981 carried out by the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Branch the GDR is among the ten countries having the lowest rate of crime in the world.

Development of the crime rate in the period 1960 - 1987

	- Annual average -	
	absolute figures	per 100,000 inhabitants
1960 - 1969	132,741	776
1970 - 1979	124,802	739
1980 - 1987	119,062	714

Capital punishment was abolished in the German Democratic Republic in 1987 and had not been applied during the last ten years .

ANNEX 2

Selected statutory regulations enacted since the last report of the German Democratic Republic on the promotion of women

Women undergoing training or studying

Executive order of 15 May 1986 on exams to obtain a skilled worker's certificate
(Law Gazette I, No. 21, p. 309)

Under the order women over 35 and men over 40 years provided that they have job experience need not prepare papers at home and need not pass final exams.

Women over 40 and men over 45 as well as holders of disability cards (categories II-IV) may be recognized as fully qualified skilled workers if they have performed operations relating to the trade concerned for at least ten years and have constantly met job requirements at their places of work.

Decree of 11 June 1981 on guaranteed payment of stipends to students at universities, other institutes of higher learning and technical schools (Stipends Decree), as amended by the Decree of 16 July 1985 concerning higher allowances for students and apprentices having children
(Law Gazette I, No. 21, p. 249)

Under the Decree students having one or more children receive 60 marks for each child in addition to their basic monthly stipend of 200 marks. In the case of illness, pregnancy or maternity leave or if leave of absence is required to nurse a sick child, payment of the benefits granted under this Decree continues to be made at the full rate.

Women in Employment

Decision by the Council of Ministers and the Executive Committee of the Confederation of Free German Trade unions of 23 May 1985 concerning guidelines in implementing the Collective Agreement
(Law Gazette I, No. 14, p. 173)

The Collective Agreement is a contract between the management and the trade union committee of a given enterprise, which is designed to actively involve workers in management and planning processes, encourage creative initiative, systematically improve working and living conditions and raise educational and cultural standards.
As one of its important elements, the Collective Agreement contains a specific Plan for the Promotion of Women aiming at a steady improvement of conditions for reconciling employment and motherhood.

Decree of 10 July 1986 on the registration of periods of release from work following maternity leave as time of employment with a given company
(Law Gazette I, No. 26, p. 361)

Working mothers who have claimed statutory release from work following maternity leave and have immediately thereafter continued employment with the same company are entitled to having the periods of release from work registered as time of employment.

Government Benefits for Mother and Child

Decree of 12 March 1987 on government child allowances
(Law Gazette I, No. 6, p. 43)

Government child allowances amount to

50 marks per month	for the first child
100 marks per month	for the second child
150 marks per month	for the third and any subsequent child

Decree of 24 May 1984 on improved benefits following the birth of the third and any subsequent child and for married mothers in gainful employment with three or more children nursing a sick child or children
(Law Gazette I, No. 16, p. 193)

After the birth of the third or any subsequent child women holding a compulsory social insurance policy are entitled to paid release from work from the date on which the maternity leave expires until the last-born child is eighteen months old.

Married women with three or more children who hold a compulsory social insurance policy and claim release from work to nurse a sick child receive a social insurance allowance. In each case of such release from work the allowance paid for the duration of up to two days is equivalent with the amount of sickpay to which the woman is entitled in the event of her own inability to work due to illness from the first to the sixth week of illness per calendar year. If release from work to nurse a sick child exceeds two days, women receive an allowance which is equivalent with the amount of sickpay to which they are entitled per calendar year from the seventh week of absence in the event of their own inability to work due to illness.

Paid release from work can also be claimed by the husband or the grandmothers in lieu of the mother.

Decree of 24 May 1984 on special support for married couples having three children
(Law Gazette I, No. 16, p. 195)

City, borough and village Councils as well as companies, co-operatives and institutions are obliged to cooperate with public organisations with a view to giving special support to married couples with three children. In particular, that support comprises measures designed to improve the housing situation and health care and to provide on a priority basis places in child care facilities and in holiday and recreational homes, as well as financial allowances.

Decree of 24 April 1986 on further improving working and living conditions for families with children
(Law Gazette I, No. 15, p. 241)

Mothers holding a compulsory social insurance policy are already after the birth of the first child entitled to paid release from work following maternity leave if they wish to take care of the child at home.

When claiming release from work following maternity leave working mothers receive an allowance equivalent with the amount of sickpay to which they are entitled from the seventh week of absence per calendar year in the case of their own inability to work due to illness.

Gainfully-employed married women with two children, who are released from work to nurse a sick child receive a social insurance allowance.

Paid release from work following maternity leave or to nurse a sick child can also be claimed by the husband or the grandmothers in lieu of the mother.

Decree of 24 April 1986 on special support for families with most severely disabled children
(Law Gazette I, No. 15, p. 243)

Women in full-time employment whose households include a most severely disabled child are entitled to a working week of 40 hours without wage reductions as well as to more days of annual leave as soon as the child is one year old.

Administration of Justice

Share of women among elected judges (in per cent) following elections in

	1979	1981	1984	1986
county courts		41.9		46.2
district courts	48.9		55.1	

Share of women among lay judges (in per cent)

	1980	1987
county courts	47.2	52.9
district courts	51.0	52.9

Share of women among the members of elected arbitration commissions

1980	1987
44.4	47.3

Health Protection for Mother and Child

Decree of 3 August 1984 on the immunization of children and adolescents
(Law Gazette, No. 25, p. 296)

Compulsory immunization is carried out at the dates set out in a special Vaccination Calendar against the following diseases:

- tuberculosis (BCG vaccin)
- poliomyelitis
- diphteria/pertussis/tetanus
- diphteria/tetanus
- tetanus
- measles.

Decree of 7 January 1983 on advisory services for parents of chronically ill or disabled children
(Law Gazette I, No. 4, p. 37)

Competent local health and social institutions maintain advisory services on medical and social matters for parents, single mothers or fathers and other persons legally in charge of chronically ill or disabled children. To consult these services, the persons concerned are released from work, with the company paying the standard wage rate for the periods of absence.

Other Provisions

Administrative rule of 28 June 1978 as amended by decision of 28 October 1986 on awarding the Clara Zetkin Medal (Law Gazette I, No. 33, p. 426)

The Clara Zetkin Medal may be awarded for outstanding merits in shaping the advanced socialist society, notably as an acknowledgement of contributions made by working women and mothers.
The Medal is awarded by the Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the GDR on the occasion of International Women's Day on 8 March. Every year 150 Medals may be awarded.

Decree of 19 May 1988 on securing maintenance claims (Law Gazette No. 11, p. 129)

This Decree regulates obligations in respect of adequate mutual information between persons liable to provide maintenance and persons entitled to maintenance as long as the liability to regular payments of maintenance exists. It also provides for government advance payments of maintenance if the persons entitled to maintenance are still minors and for government allowances in exceptional cases.

Government advance payments of maintenance are granted in order to support persons legally in charge of minor citizens of the GDR if the necessary writs of execution have been obtained and if

- enforcement of regular maintenance payments under the terms of the maintenance contract has been totally or partially unsuccessful;
- enforcement cannot be effected;
- maintenance payments made or enforced outside the GDR are not available within the GDR due to non-transferability;
- the person liable to provide maintenance is serving a sentence and under the provisions of the Prison Administrative Act payment from public funds can in no way be assured.

Decree of 1 October 1987 on additional annual leave for older persons in gainful employment
(Law Gazette I, No. 23, P. 231)

Five working days of additional age-related leave are granted to gainfully-employed women with effect from the beginning of the calendar year in which they reach the age of 55 and to gainfully-employed men with effect from the beginning of the calendar year in which they reach the age of 60.

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GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

Corrigendum

1. Page 1, line 2

   For above-mentioned read initial

2. Page 14, first sentence, line 1

   After are, insert 897 and after the comma, insert 114

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